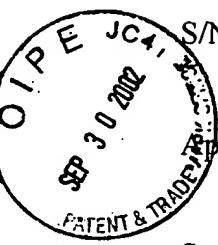


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S/N 09/691,864

PATENT

#8/2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SCHERER et al. (as Examiner: E. MORGAN
amended)

Serial No.: 09/691,864 Group Art Unit: 3723

Filed: October 19, 2000 Docket No.: 3616.177-US-I1

Title: BLOCK SPLITTING ASSEMBLY AND METHOD

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on September 25, 2002.

By: Kristine A. Wacek

Name: Kristine A. Wacek

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the office action mailed March 25, 2002, Applicants provide the following amendments and remarks.

In the Drawings

Applicants propose amending the drawings as shown in red on the attached Proposed Drawing Correction.

In the Specification

Applicants propose replacing the specification with the enclosed substitute specification. A marked-up copy of the specification showing the changes being made is also enclosed. No new matter has been added.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-61 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 62-126 as follows.

10/03/2002 MBIZUNES 00000082 132725 09691864

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01 FC:103 72.00 CH
02 FC:102 252.00 CH